

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES of PHYSICIANS IN KINGSTON, N.H.

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in Kingston, N.H.*



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Samuel A. Green.



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THE first Physician of Kingston of whom we have any definite account, was a Dr. Green, who died some time in the year 1750. The vacancy created by his death was filled by Dr. Josiah Bartlett and Dr. Aaron Sawyer. Dr. Sawyer soon returned to the Upper Parish of Amesbury, Ms., whence he originated.

Dr. Josiah Bartlett was born in Amesbury, Ms., Nov. 21, 1727, O. S. His father, whose name was Stephen Bartlett, had not much property, but was, however, enabled to give him a medical education under the instruction of Dr. Ordway, a respectable physician of Amesbury. Dr. Bartlett completed his medical studies at the age of twenty-one, and very soon after established himself at Kingston, N. H.

He married his cousin, Mary Bartlett, of Newtown, N. H., Jan. 15, 1754, by whom he had twelve children.

His practice became very extensive, and he was eminently successful, especially in the treatment of the *Cynanche Maligna*, or Throat Distemper, which first made its appearance in Kingston, with great fatality, in 1765.

Dr. Bartlett began his political career as Representative from Kingston, in the Legislature of New Hampshire, while an English colony.

He continued to fill various offices of trust, from this time to the year 1775, when he was elected to the Continental Congress, which met at Philadelphia in September of that year. In July, 1776, Congress declared the Colonies independent, and Dr. Bartlett was the first, after the venerable Hancock, to sign this instrument of American freedom.

In November, 1778, Dr. Bartlett returned home to attend to his domestic affairs, which had suffered greatly from his absence. About this time he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and was transferred to the Superior Bench in November, 1782, and there officiated till he was appointed, in 1788, Chief Justice of the State. Judge Bartlett sustained, during this period, many offices not incompatible with his high judicial character, such as Counsellor, a member of the Convention to form a State Constitution, and was one of a Committee, with Judge Livermore and Gen. Sullivan, to revise the Laws of the State, and a member of the Convention to ratify the new Constitution.

In 1789, he was elected Senator to Congress, but his declining health, and the depression of spirits consequent upon the sudden death of his wife, early in that year, induced him to decline the duties of Senator, and to resign the office of Chief Justice.

The people, unwilling to lose his services, elected him President of the State, in 1790.

Dr. Bartlett took an active part in forming the New Hampshire Medical Society, and was elected, in 1791, its first President.

In 1792, he was chosen a member to revise the Constitution of New Hampshire, in which the title of President was dropped, and that of Governor substituted, and he was the first Chief Magistrate with the title of Governor. About this time, he received the honorary degrees of M. A. and M. D. from Dartmouth College.

Gov. Bartlett filled all these stations with general satisfaction, without ostentation; administering the laws in a mild yet decisive manner, and setting forth the example of true republicanism.

His appointments were just, and such as met the public approbation.

The arduous duties of a professional and political life, in those "times that tried men's souls," had impaired his health, and so shattered a constitution, never strong, that May 19, 1795, he died suddenly, of paralysis, leaving a very extensive circle of friends to mourn his departure.

Gov. Bartlett was possessed of good mental powers, of a kind and benevolent disposition, and was scrupulously just in all his dealings.

Philanthropy and benevolence were the prominent traits of his character.

His letters, still extant, show that, with a calm and childlike trust in God, he mingled that high sense of the responsibilities which man owes to his Creator and his fellow-man, which forms the foundation of a truly generous, just, and noble character.

Subjoined is the testimony of one who was his neighbor and intimate friend for many years—the Rev. Dr. Elihu Thayer. It is taken from the Address delivered at the funeral of Gov. Bartlett.

"But few persons by their own merit, without the influence of family, or party connections, have risen from one degree of honor and confidence to another, as he did. And *fewer still* have been the instances, in which a succession of honorable and important offices even to the highest, have been held by *any man with less envy*; or executed with *more general approbation*. Despising the gaudy exhibition of vain parade, (a sure mark of a noble mind,) he set a shining example of frugality and economy, both in private and public life, at a period when such virtues were peculiarly becoming and necessary. His natural temper was open, humane, and compassionate. In his dealings, he was scrupulously just, and faithful in the performance of all his engagements; and in his public offices, he served his country with all his might."

The children of Gov. Bartlett who still survive, are Hon. Ezra Bartlett of Haverhill, N. H., and Mrs. Gale, the widow of the late Dr. Amos Gale of Kingston. She is in her 74th year, and resides at South Hampton with her daughter, Mrs. White.

Dr. Levi Bartlett was the eldest son of Gov. Josiah Bartlett, and was born Sept. 3, 1763. He received his preparatory education at the then celebrated

"Dummer School" in Newbury, Ms., and after studying the science of medicine one year with his father, he completed his professional course with Dr. Thomas Kittredge of Andover, Ms., a distinguished physician.

Soon after, he established himself in Kingston, N. H., where his father had been located, and who was giving up his professional business to younger and more vigorous practitioners.

Here, and in the adjoining towns, he soon acquired an extensive practice, and was frequently called many miles from home in consultation. He was a skilful and successful surgeon, and performed many important operations.

Dr. Bartlett filled many stations of trust. He was a Justice of the Peace and Quorum throughout the state, Colonel in the militia, and Post Master for many years. He frequently represented Kingston in the Legislature, and for several years was a member of the Council, and Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. But being of a studious and metaphysical turn, he preferred the quiet pleasures of private life to the care and turmoil of the political arena.

He was married, Nov. 6, 1791, to Sally Hook, who died of consumption, February, 1793. He married the second time, Abigail Stevens, April 18, 1807.

He was kind and obliging in his disposition, generous and humane to the needy, and honorable and just in all his business relations.

For several years, he suffered from paralysis, and was, consequently, unable to transact business or enjoy life. His earthly career terminated Jan. 30, 1828, at the age of 65, leaving a widow and three children — two daughters and one son.

Dr. Levi Stevens Bartlett was born Dec. 3, 1811. He received his academical education at Phillips Academy, Exeter. He read medicine with his uncle, the late Hon. Josiah Bartlett of Stratham, Professor Elisha Bartlett, at that time of Lowell, Ms., and with Dr. John Barrett of Portland, Me. Dr. Bartlett attended the Medical Lectures at Dartmouth and Bowdoin Colleges, and received his diploma from Dartmouth in the year 1832, a short time before he was 21 years of age.

Having come in possession of the landed estates of his father, and the old mansion of his grandfather, he settled at Kingston, where he now resides, and is in the practice of his profession. He married, Dec. 3, 1844, Aroline E., daughter of Moses Sanborn, Esq.

Dr. Amos Gale, son of Jacob Gale, was born at East Kingston, April 9, 1744, O. S. He studied medicine with Dr. Josiah Bartlett of Kingston, N. H., and married Hannah, the only child of Daniel and Hannah Gilman of Kingston, Nov. 12, 1765. They had ten children, six sons and four daughters, six of whom are still living. His practice was very extensive, and he was highly esteemed as a physician and citizen. He was one of the early members of the N. H. Medical Society, and he continued to practice medicine in Kingston and vicinity, (with the exception of a few years, during which he resided in Troy, N. Y.,) until a short time before his death, which occurred June 8, 1813, aged 69 years. The disease which terminated his life was paralysis. Several young men received their medical instruction from him.

Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., son of the preceding, was born at Kingston, Oct. 15, 1768. He studied medicine with his father and Dr. Levi Bartlett of Kingston, attended lectures at Boston, commenced and continued to practise medicine in his native town till his death, which occurred Dec. 7, 1824, aged 56 years. He was a very energetic and athletic man, and was characterized for his great assiduity and self-denial in the discharge of his duties as a physician. He was married to Sally, youngest daughter of Gov. Bartlett, by whom he had seven children, five sons and two daughters, all of whom are still living. Dr. Gale held various offices in the town, and was Representative to the Legislature in 1808. About twenty young men received medical education under his instruction. He was elected a member of the N. H. Medical Society in 1800.

Dr. Stephen Gale, youngest son of Dr. Amos Gale, Senior, was born Jan. 28, 1723, and studied medicine with his brother Amos. He died Aug. 13, 1804. His disease was a scrofulous affection of the knee, caused by an injury.

Dr. Ezra Bartlett Gale, eldest son of Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., was born at Kingston, Oct. 13, 1797. He studied medicine with his father and uncle, Dr. Levi Bartlett, and attended medical lectures in Boston in 1818, and practised with his

father till July, 1821, when he commenced practice in Brentwood, N. H., and continued there till August, 1823. In the fall of 1822, he attended a course of Medical Lectures at Brown University, and received the degree of M. D. in 1823. He married Ruth White, youngest daughter of the late Richard White, Esq., of South Hampton, N. H., July 31, 1823, where he practised medicine till 1827, when he recommenced practice in Kingston, in which place he now pursues his professional duties. He had seven children by his first wife, four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living. His wife died July 6, 1841. He married Emily, daughter of the late Moses Atwood, Esq., of Atkinson, Nov. 22, 1842, by whom he has two daughters. He is a member and officer of the N. H. Medical Society, and also of the Rockingham Dist. Med. Society.

Dr. Levi Bartlett Gale, second son of Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., was born Aug. 29, 1800. He studied medicine with his father and brother, and attended lectures at Boston and at Brown University, where he took his degree of M. D. He commenced and continued the practice of medicine in Kingston till the return of his brother from South Hampton, when he removed to Boston, where he now resides. He married Sarah B. Keggan, by whom he has two children.

Dr. Josiah Bartlett Gale, third son of Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., was born Jan. 11, 1803. He studied medicine with his brothers Ezra Bartlett and Levi Bartlett Gale. He attended Medical Lectures at Brown University, and commenced the practice of medicine in Brentwood, where he remained but a short time. Thence he removed to Salisbury Mills, Ms., where he now resides. He married Hannah, daughter of the late Capt. Jacob Morrill of Salisbury, Ms. They have one child, a son.

Dr. Amos Gilman Gale, fourth son of Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., was born Feb. 17, 1807. He commenced his medical studies with his brother Levi Bartlett Gale, and attended two courses of Medical Lectures at Dartmouth College, at which he received the degree of M. D. He commenced the practice of medicine in Hooksett, N. H., where he was employed in his profession till his removal to Manchester, N. H. He married Mary, daughter of Hon. Richard H. Ayer, of Hooksett, by whom he has one child, a daughter.

Dr. Stephen Madison Gale, fifth son of Dr. Amos Gale, Jr., was born in Kingston, Oct. 20, 1809. He commenced the study of medicine with his brother E. B. Gale, in 1834, studied one year with his brother L. B. Gale in Boston, and attended three courses of Medical Lectures in that place three years in succession, commencing in 1834, and received his medical degree at Harvard University, 1837. He commenced practice in Derry, N. H., September following; and thence he removed to East Kingston, where he remained but a short time. He commenced practice in Lowell, Dec., 1838, and from that place he removed to Methuen, July, 1839, where he has been engaged in practice ever since. He was admitted a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, April, 1839. He married Hannah W. Johnson of Portland, Me., March 28, 1843, by whom he has one daughter, Alice Bartlett.

Though all the above physicians by the name of Gale have not been located as physicians in Kingston, yet, as they were all of one family, we have entered their names under the head of Kingston.

There has been for about eighty years in Kingston a physician of the name of Gale, father, son, and grandsons. Very much the same may be said of the name of Bartlett. It is believed that no two families in our country have furnished more physicians than the Bartlett and Gale families of Kingston. Governor Bartlett had three sons eminent as physicians; namely, Josiah of Stratham, Levi of Kingston, and Ezra of Haverhill, all members and officers of the Medical Society; and all political men, Ezra and Levi having been Judges of Courts, and Josiah a Member of Congress. Many of his grandsons are in the profession, one of whom, Dr. Josiah Bartlett of Stratham, is now President of the New Hampshire Medical Society.

Dr. Thomas Bassett was born in Deerfield, N. H., Aug. 12, 1797. His father was a merchant in that town, and once traded in Atkinson; but in 1804 removed to Londonderry with his family, where he resided till his death. His mother's name was Susannah McGregor, a descendant of the Rev. James McGregor, who emigrated from Scotland to Ireland, and subsequently with

a number of others, to America, and commenced a settlement in Londonderry. At the age of fifteen, Thomas commenced the studies preparatory to entering college, under the instruction of his uncle, Rev. David McGregor, who was then the settled minister in Bedford, N. H., and lived with him about three years; he then left and entered the Pinkerton Academy in Derry, under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Burnham, and continued there until the death of his father. At this time, finding himself destitute of pecuniary means, he was forced to relinquish the idea of prosecuting further his collegiate studies, and resorted to school-keeping to obtain the object he then most desired, an education. After spending three years in this employment, he resolved to prepare for the medical profession; and, in 1821, entered the office of Dr. George Farrar of Derry, as a student in medicine, where he remained till the fall of 1822, when he left, and entered the private class of Professors Mussey, Oliver, and Dana, at Dartmouth College, and continued with them until he had finished a regular course of medical instruction, and received the degree of Doctor in Medicine at the Commencement, in 1824. In March following, he established himself at Kingston, as a physician and surgeon, where he has resided, with the exception of a few months, to the present time, in the practice of his profession, in that place and the neighboring towns.

In 1828, he was married to Miranda Spofford, daughter of Samuel Spofford, and granddaughter of Major Jacob Peaslee of Kingston. In 1826 he was elected, and in 1837, became a Fellow of the N. H. Medical Society, in which he has held the office of Censor and Counsellor. He has been honored with the office of Justice of the Peace, and has held the office of Brigade Major and Inspector in the first Brigade of New Hampshire militia.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF
CINCINNATI, O.

The 226th Anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, was celebrated in the City of Cincinnati by the New England Society, on Dec. 22, 1846. The services on the occasion were as follows: Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Beecher; Reading the Scriptures by the Rev. Mr. Magoon; Address by B. B. Fessenden, Esq.; Benediction by Rev. Dr. Stowe. With these services appropriate music was interspersed.

On Jan. 5, 1847, the annual meeting of the Society was held, and the Report was read by the Rev. Dr. Colton. In the Cincinnati Gazette we find the following account, which, we doubt not, will be interesting to our readers.

This Society was organized January 14th, 1845. Its objects are, to cherish the memory and perpetuate the principles of the original settlers of New England; to collect and diffuse information respecting New England and New England emigrants to other parts of the country, especially to the West; and to extend charity to the needy of New England descent. It is composed of men born in New England, and the male descendants of New England ancestors. The Society has a liberal charter from the Legislature, and is wholly free from debt. It has upwards of 200 members, and the number is rapidly increasing, 23 having joined at the last meeting.

It was voted to appropriate one half the surplus in the Treasury towards the establishment of a valuable library of historical and antiquarian works in relation to New England, and to start a subscription of \$500 in aid of the project, of which \$200 was immediately subscribed, and it is thought the balance can be made up this month. A catalogue of the works desired has been made out,



